

Press Release



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GOVERNOR O'MALLEY ANNOUNCES RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT FUNDS TO HELP PRESERVE JOBS FOR MARYLAND ARTS COMMUNITY

Grants of up to \$20,000 available for eligible arts organizations

April 15, 2009 (Baltimore Maryland) -- Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that Maryland has been awarded \$318,600 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for grants that will help sustain jobs in Maryland's arts community. Under the Maryland Arts Employment Stabilization program, grants of up to \$20,000 will be available to Maryland nonprofit arts organizations through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"These funds are coming at a critical time when the arts, like many industry sectors in Maryland, are facing unprecedented challenges from the economic downturn," said Governor O'Malley. "The Maryland Arts Employment Stabilization program will help us to sustain jobs in this vital industry, which is essential to the continued growth of Maryland's creative economy."

The details were unveiled today by Maryland Business and Economic Development Secretary Christian S. Johansson at an event held at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture convened to present the state's 5-year strategic plan for the arts to community leaders.

"When we invest in the arts, we invest in our communities, our businesses and our citizens," said Secretary Johansson. "In the coming weeks, the Maryland State Arts Council will be working hard to assist Maryland's arts organizations in applying for the grants, ensuring that we are maximizing every dollar made available through the ARRA."

The Maryland Arts Employment Stabilization Program will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency of DBED. Organizations eligible for the employment stabilization grants must have received a 2009 grant from the Arts Council under one of three programs: Grants for Organizations, Community Arts Development or *ARTvantage*. Funds can be used for fees for previously engaged artists and/or contractual personnel who support the

presentation of the arts or salary support for positions critical to the organization's artistic mission that are in jeopardy or have been eliminated as a result of the current economic climate. Grant funds must be expended between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

Applications are available at www.msac.org and must be received at the arts council offices by Friday May 8, 2009. Organizations may receive NEA funds from only one source.

For information on the program contact Pamela Dunne, Assistant Director, at 410-767-6484 or pdunne@msac.org.

The Maryland State Arts Council is an agency of the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts and is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. According to an Americans for the Arts study, 51,466 people were employed in 11,443 arts-related businesses in Maryland in 2008. A FY 2007 DBED study indicates that the nonprofit arts industry alone employs 15,000 jobs and generated a total economic impact of \$1.2 billion.

For information on the Maryland State Arts Council and its programs visit www.msac.org, email msac@msac.org, or call 410-767-6555 or TTY 1-800-735-2258.

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